

HEALTH
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ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health



AND

Surveyor & Chief Public Health

Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1957

ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1957

by

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1957.

The population of the district continues to increase and the estimated mid-year figure of the Register General is given as 5210.

The Birth Rate shows a marked rise compared with last year and now stands well above the average for England and Wales as a whole. There were in fact 90 births this year compared with 66 in 1956 and it is perhaps interesting to note that the number of births this year in St. Neots is greater than any figure recorded since 1950.

The Death Rate on the other hand indicated a fractional increase when compared with last year but still remains well below the national average.

Notifiable Infectious disease this year again ran at a fairly low level, measles being the most prevalent condition. Three cases of suspected Food Poisoning were notified in 1957 but in no case was the condition confirmed by laboratory investigations and none of the victims required hospitalisation.

Vaccinations against poliomyelitis continued during the year as far as the limited supplies permitted - all vaccination being achieved with British manufactured vaccine.

Some difficulty is still being encountered in finding suitable institutional accommodation for elderly people living alone and requiring a certain amount of care and attention.

In connection with anticipated private development along Cambridge Street, a main sewer is to be constructed to serve the development at an estimated cost of £18,000.

Similarly a water trunk main is also to be constructed to link up the existing system and the above development and to improve the pressure in this area.

So far as housing is concerned some individual blocks of substandard properties have been purchased for demolition and subsequent redevelopment. This should help to clear up some of the black spots which have existed within the district for many years.

Your obedient servant,

J. CALDWELL.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

J.CALDWELL, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

S.D.COX, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.F.S., A.M.I.S.E.

Assistant Public Health Inspector & Assistant Surveyor:

J.D.MITCHELL, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.

Waterworks Engineer

W.W. MAWBY

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 1,391 acres St. Neots 996, Eynesbury 395.

ESTIMATED POPULATIONS: Mid 1956 5,140. Mid 1957 5,210

ST. NEOTS

Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	690
Shops, etc., with private houses attached..						90

EYNESBURY:

Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	322
Shops, etc., with private houses attached..						14

RATEABLE VALUE:

As at 31st December, 1957	:	£62,952
Product of a Penny Rate	:	£ 251

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	M	F.	Total		
Legitimate	44	42	86	Birth-rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	2	2	4	estimated population	17.3
Total	46	44	90	(Ditto for England and Wales)	16.1

Still Births

Legitimate	2	-	2	Rate per 1,000 total	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live & still)births	21.7
Total	2	-	2	(Ditto for England and Wales)	22.4

Deaths (All ages)	28	25	53	Death-rate per 1,000	
				estimated population	10.2
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	11.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	1	1

Death Rates of Infants Under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	...	11.1
(Ditto for England and Wales) ...	...	...	...	23.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area :

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
Telephone Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, (S.Greenburgh, Ph.D.,B.Sc.,F.I.C.), Tennison Road,
Cambridge, Telephone Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance facilities

Ambulance administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders Telephone. Huntingdon 348

(c) Home Nursing

Two Nurse-Midwives. living in St.Neots (Telephone St.Neots 215), employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity cases in the district.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services, provided by the Huntingdon County Council, were available :

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
Infant Welfare	Children (0 - 5 years)	Every Wednesday and Thursday 2- 4 p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
Dental	Pre-School and School children Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	Every Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 noon. 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.	C of E Girls School, Huntingdon Street, St. Neots.

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	County Hospital Huntingdon
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays 3 - 7 p.m. Wednesdays 4 - 6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays 5.30 - 7 p.m. Wednesdays 5.30 - 7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department,
	Females	Tuesdays 10.30 - 12 noon Thursdays 5.30 - 7 p.m.	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough
Orthopaedic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment) 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and school-children	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency) 10 a.m. - 12 noon. 2 - 4 p.m.	School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Fever - Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospital at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases are admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital Huntingdon and to Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	11
Diphtheria ..	...	...	-
Measles	...	...	26
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia .	...	...	-
Typhoid Fever	...	...	-
Erysipelas ..	...	...	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	2
Food Poisoning	...	...	3
Dysentery ..	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS

(Registrar-General's List)

<u>List No.</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	2	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	7	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
20.	Other heart disease	-	3
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	-
22.	Influenza	3	4
23.	Pneumonia	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	3	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26.	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-
27.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
28.	Nephritis, nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperphasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34.	All other accidents	1	-
35.	Suicide	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-

Total all causes

28

25

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1957 : 21

Pulmonary: 13

Non-Pulmonary: 8

New Cases - Diagnosed

New Cases - Transfers

Age periods	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1957

To the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

It is my pleasure to submit my fifth Annual Report recording the work of your Inspectors for the year 1957.

The year brought the completion of a number of schemes and improvements the most notable being the coming into full operation of the Sewerage system and sewage treatment works.

In being able to submit this report I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, yourself and other Officers and staff of the Urban District Council for their work and help.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

S.D.COX

Surveyor and Chief Public Health
Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ETC.

Visits and Inspections made 1957

Public Health Act

Houses inspected for nuisances including revisits	..	142
Verminous premises	..	-
Infectious diseases - inquiries and disinfection	..	3
Privies, ashpits, earth closets	..	6
Drainage inspections - sewers included (old & new)	..	241
Tents, vans, sheds and moveable dwellings	..	22
Smoke abatement - observations etc	..	6
Streams and watercourses	..	6
Vacant land	..	2
Refuse tip - control and operation	..	93
Refuse collection, complaints, organisation etc	..	15
Council house maintenance - repairs, surveys etc	..	1157
Byelaws - inspection of new and proposed work etc	..	237
Keeping animals	..	2
Offensive trades	..	1
Water Supplies - including sampling	..	13
Public Conveniences	..	14

Housing Act

Houses inspected - slum clearance, improvements etc	..	49
Housing application (for Council houses)	..	7
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts - valuation etc	..	22
Improvement Grants - advice, work in progress etc	..	27

Factory Act

Factories and work places inspected	..	18
Outworkers premises visited	..	7
Fire Escape inspections - including revisits	..	6

Shops Act

Shops inspected - health and comfort etc	..	7
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Food and Drugs Act etc

Bakehouses inspected - including revisits	9
General food shops - including revisits	11
Fried Fish Shops - including revisits	2
Food preparing premises	12
Slaughterhouses (meat inspection etc)	617
Public houses	3
Markets and market stalls	76
Food inspection visits (other than meat inspection)	7
Restaurants and cafes - including sampling visits	28
Ice cream premises - including sampling visits	53
Dairies - including sampling visits	14
Butchers	49
Hotels	4

Miscellaneous

Rat and mice infestations (not including Rodent Operative)	12
Interviews generally	1252
Miscellaneous Visits	238
Visits under Petroleum Acts	7
New Council houses in course of erection	651
District and classified roads, scavenging Gulley emptying etc,	79
Total visits and inspections made	5217

Notices Served and complied with 1957 (including verbal)

Type of Notice	Served	Complied with	Outstanding	
			End of 1956	End of 1957
Public Health Act informal	7	11	6	2
Public Health Act formal	1	1	-	-
Housing Acts informal	-	-	-	-
Housing Acts formal	-	-	-	-
Factories Acts informal	-	-	-	-
Food & Drugs Acts informal	4	3	-	1
Milk and Dairies Regs. informal	-	-	-	-
Petroleum Acts informal	-	-	-	-
Pet Animals Act informal	-	-	-	-

LICENCES ISSUED

Slaughter of Animals Acts		
Slaughtering licences	..	11
Public Health Acts		
Marine store dealers	..	1
Knackers Yard	..	1
Slaughterhouses Act 1954		
Slaughterhouses - private	..	3
Petroleum Acts		
Petroleum	..	25
Carbide of Calcium	..	1
Cellulose	..	1
Rubber solutions	..	1
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations		
Dealers licences	..	4
Supplementary licences	..	2
Game Act 1931		
Game dealers	..	6
Food and Drugs Acts - registrations to date		
Storage and sale of ice cream	..	16
Manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream	..	-
Pressed, potted and preserved meats etc.	..	4
Pet Animals Acts 1951		
Pet animals licences	..	4
Caravan licences (individual)	..	4

INFORMAL FOOD ETC SAMPLES

Ice cream

The following samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge

Grade 1	25 samples
Grade 2	1 sample
Grade 3	1 sample
Grade 4	No samples

It is pleasing to note that the results show a better standard of ice cream than the previous year when a greater number of samples fell into Grades 2 and 3.

Milk

A total of 25 milk samples were taken over the year as follows:

Tuberculin tested	- 12 samples	- all satisfactory
(Pasteurised)		
Pasteurised milk	- 13 samples	- all satisfactory

Water

During the year a total of 12 water samples were taken as follow

From various pumps and wells	- 11 samples (3 unsatisfactory)
Town mains water	- 1 sample - satisfactory

As usual a procedure was adopted to endeavour to make owners connect to the public water supply in cases where samples proved unsatisfactory. Failing this wells were cleaned with resulting improvements.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Animals killed and inspected during 1957 at the three licenced slaughterhouses were as follows:-

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1834	57	7115	12379	21385

Condemnations

Diseases other than tuberculosis

	Cattle & Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1. Whole carcasses	4	1	4	25
2. Part carcasses or organs	444	2	57	554
3. Percentage affected	24.4	5.2	85	4.3

Affected with tuberculosis

1. Whole carcass	3	-	-	1
2. Part carcass or organs	112	-	-	172
3. Percentage affected	6.2	-	-	1.3

In diseases other than tuberculosis 5 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered. In all cases infestation was such that affected parts were condemned and the carcasses removed to cold store for the recommended period.

Other Food Condemned

8 tins cooked gammon
8 lbs. corned beef
6 tins pork luncheon meat
17 tins tomatoes
10 tins baked beans
9 tins evaporated milk
6 tins oranges
47 tins pineapple
1 tin cherries
48 tins peaches

Other Food Condemned (Cont'd)

1 tin raspberries
 1 tin cooked shoulder ham
 7 lbs. jellied veal
 12 pkts biscuits
 1 tin salmon
 28 lbs. cut peel
 20 lbs. chipolata sausages
 26 lbs. flour
 9 lbs. tea
 4 lbs. lemonade powder
 4 tins blackcurrants
 4 tins beetroot
 8 tins apricots
 1 tin steak & kidney pudding
 45 tins peas
 90 lbs. cheese
 6 jars pickles
 17 lbs. smoked bacon
 22 lbs. sliced ham
 3 pkts Vitawheat

As last year meat inspection at the main abattoir demanded more of the inspectors time. The 100% meat inspection service is still being maintained, even in the face of yet another substantial increase in the total killings. As a comparison I tabulate below the annual figures since 1951 showing this years figures to be more than three times those six years ago.

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
6980	8542	9035	13535	17368	19399	21,385

Food premises

General Stores	..	26
Fishmongers	..	3
Dairies	..	4
Butchers	..	11
Bakeries	..	5
Hotels	..	5
Cafés & Eating		
Establishments	..	8
Fish Friers	..	3
Mobile Fish Friers		
Establishments	..	1
Public Houses	..	31
Greengrocers	..	6
Ice cream premises	..	16
Pie manufacturies	..	1
Malsters	..	1
Flour mills	..	1

Housing Acts etc.

Improvement Grants

Applications received	8	
Grants made	8	(involving 9 properties)

Small Dwellings Loans

Applications received	19
Loans granted	16

Housing Acts etc (Cont'd)

New Council houses etc

Under construction at end of 1956

4 bedroomed type	4
3 bedroomed type	6
2 bedroomed type	34

Completed during 1957

4 bedroomed type	4
3 bedroomed type	6
2 bedroomed type houses	6
2 bedroomed flats.....	28
2 bedroomed bungalows...	6

Underconstruction at end of 1957

Bedsitting room units (single persons).....	5
Shops.....	2
2 bedroomed flats.....	1
Garages.....	5

Housing Act

Applications for certificate of disrepair	1
Applications justified.....	1
Undertakings from landlords.....	-
Certificates of disrepair issued.....	1

Slum clearance continues slowly as occupants of old dwellings to be demolished can be rehoused.

Factories in Register

With mechanical power	50
Without mechanical power	13
Fire Escape Certificates issued in 1957	1

Market Stalls

During the year 3235 stalls were occupied. This figure shows a considerable increase over that last year as can be seen below

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
2175	2649	2906	2934	3083	2987	3304	2828	2662	2956	3235

Following my suggestion the market was rearranged as a trial, and proved so successful that the layout has been adopted and now continues.

New work

91 plans were submitted during the year for Building Byelaws approval and/or for consents under the Town & Country Planning Acts & Regs. This shows a slight decrease over last year when a number of drainage plans were submitted.

4 new private dwellings were constructed during the year and two were under construction at the end of the year.

Sewerage

Following the fitting of the new and proper control panel and electrodes at the main pumping station troubles commenced immediately. These took the form of air locking of the pumps, irregular pumping rates, storm pumping during dry weather flow, and inevitable bad effluents from the treatment works, as a result of the small pump used for returning humus sludge for treatment being incapable of handling the humus before it turned septic.

Considerable investigation took place throughout the year, and in December, the troubles at the main pumping station were traced to

- (i) the rotor resistances having originally been fitted in reverse
- (ii) the electrodes in the wet chamber being set too low in that immediately prior to the pumps cutting out, air was drawn into the pump volute, when operating on 1 and 2 positions.

Sewerage (Cont'd)

The sewage treatment works had need for temporary modifications to achieve a reasonable effluent, and in the proposed extensions to the works it was decided to

- i. redesign the inlet channels to the settlement tanks
- ii. redirect the humus return to the main channel
- iii. instal a dosing syphon
- iv. instal more control valves and penstocks, particularly on the storm tanks outlet at the pumping well and the sludge beds feeds.
- v. instal automatic control of the humus sludge pump.

A new 12" sewer from the main pumping station to Cambridge Road for development in that area was started towards the end of the year.

Potton Road pump continued to give irregular service mainly due to age and absence of standby or duplicate arrangements. Plans are in preparation for the redesign of this station.

The Leys Road Compressor Units are in need of overhaul after 9 years continuous service and it is hoped to complete this next year.

Night Soil

Few properties remain in the town needing night soil collection. They are mainly low grade properties, which will be dealt with under Slum Clearance, and a few houses not having a sewer capable of serving them.

Refuse

The weekly house refuse collection continued throughout the year satisfactorily, very few complaints being received.

The tip was maintained in good condition, although during the dry spell a serious fire occurred. It was promptly extinguished however using diaphragm pumps continuously pumping water from a nearby pond and also suffocating the fire with pulverised fuel ash from the Power Station.

Refuse (Cont'd)

A minor cricket infestation was remedied with insecticides both liquid and powder.

Pulverised fuel ash continues to be used as an easily obtained free covering material.

Salvage

Resulting from the appeal of the Waste Paper Recovery Association, less salvage paper was collected this year and 9 tons 14 cwt were despatched to the Mills.

Having regard to the low price paid for salvage, the cost of the collection has not been covered, and so this year the Council increased the collection charge from 3/- to 5/- per visit. This resulted in little change in the number of request. collections.

Roads, scavenging etc.

Snow clearing and gritting machinery owned by the Council is now **capable**, I feel, of handling most conditions likely to occur. This remark of mine is prompted by the fact that additional equipment has been improvised successfully and economically in a large and small snow plough and grit **spreading** machine.

The scavenging, grass cutting and weeding of both District and Classified roads has continued satisfactorily throughout the year in spite of staff shortages.

A trial was given to a firm of gulley cleaning Contractors who eventually quoted 1/8d. per gulley per emptying on the basis of three times per year. Upon investigation and even the Council owning its own equipment, a price lower than this could not be calculated. The scheme was adopted and is working satisfactorily.

The last horse 'Queenie' in the Council's ownership was sent in March to the Headquarters of the International League for the Protection of Horses.

During the year the second phase, completing the sodium discharge

Roads, scavenging etc (Cont'd)

lighting on the Trunk Road A.45 from boundary to boundary was put into operation. Unfortunately the columns of the first scheme of 27 columns completed some six years ago showed signs of deterioration. The firm concerned has agreed to replace them (17 needing replacement) free of charge, which it is hoped to complete in the coming year.

The usual annual tree planting programme was successfully completed involving an expenditure of £100.

Miscellaneous.

Such places as the Mortuary, Market Chambers, Public landing stages, disused churchyards, Memorials, Public Conveniences, Depots etc., were all maintained in good condition throughout the year.

Additional playground equipment was supplied and erected in the Riversmead Playing Field, for which a grant was received from the National Playing Fields Association.

The levelling with mechanical leveller supply and spreading of topsoil to an old refuse dump to form a new Playing Field for the Potton Road area was accomplished before the end of the year. It is intended to seed the field next year.

S.D.COX

Surveyor and Chief Public Health
Inspector.

